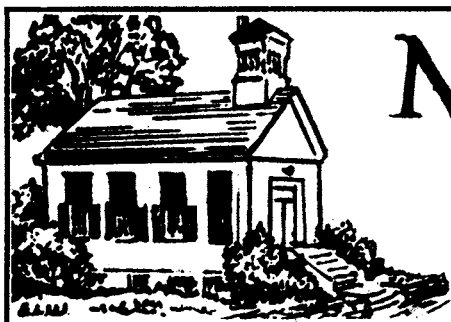


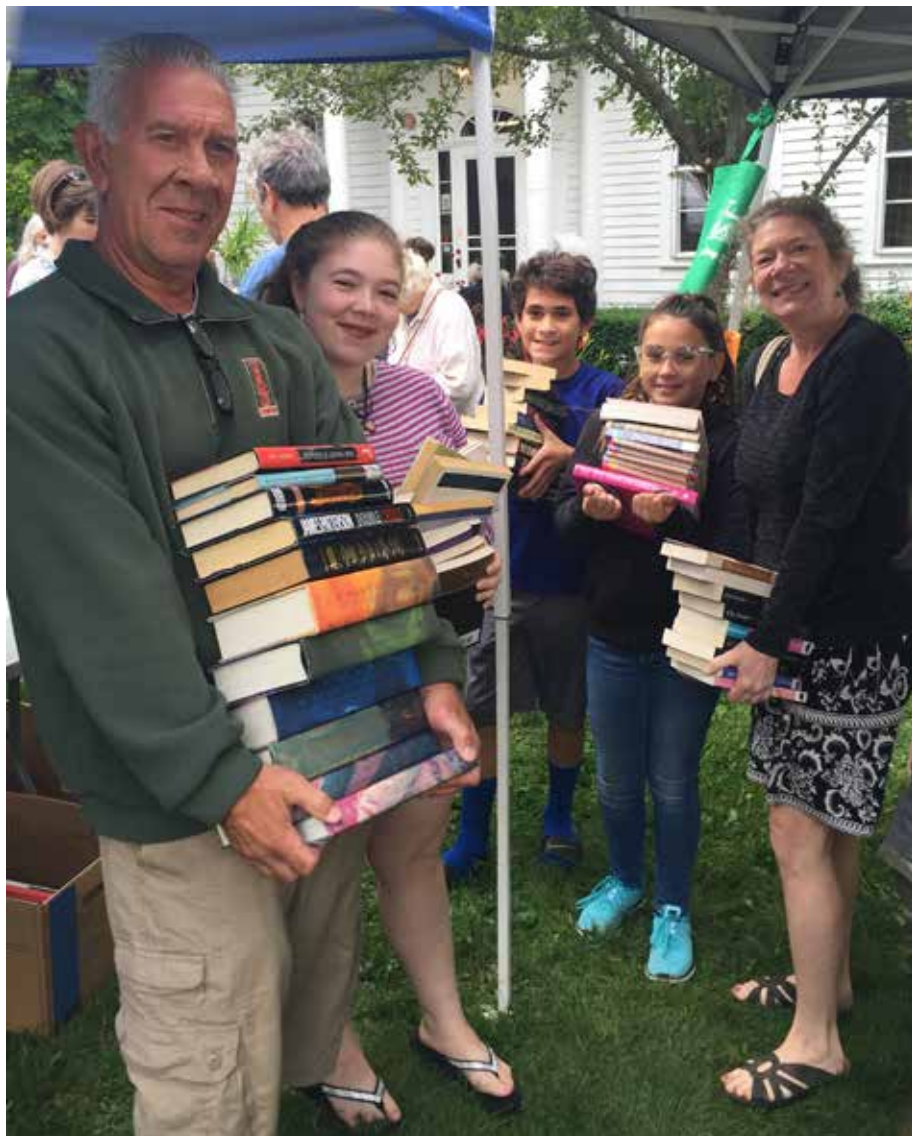


MONTEREY NEWS

August 2017
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVII • Number 8



Pick up copies at: the general store, library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season)



Sandy Loglisci, her brother Jeff, and their children (his two and her one) checking out with armloads of books from the library booksale, July 29. "We are a reading family," Sandy said.

Monterey was awarded \$800,000 for the rehabilitation of eighteen homes.
CDBG Grant Award page 4

Recently, several anonymous letters, including mean-spirited personal attacks, have come to our attention.
Select Board Corner page 26

The total area of dense EWM is probably now less than two acres, probably closer to one acre.
Lake Garfield Working Group page 6



Baldylocks and the Bear page 12

Alf Pedersen, a long-time resident of Monterey, died peacefully on July 14, in Birmingham, AL. page 9

These are tree swallow babies, not bluebirds, but they are cute anyway!
Wildlife Report page 23

The cost for lifetime passes to the entire national park system for seniors will increase on August 28.
Council on Aging page 7

He was following his GPS over Stevens Lake dam when his vehicle slipped off the bridge..
Police Report page 20



Naptime page 24



Fire Company Calls page 13



Library News page 2

Monterey Library Notes Library Project—Onward!

State Grant Award (Almost)

On July 13, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners announced the ranking of the thirty-three libraries that had applied for library grants. Monterey was ranked eleventh out of thirty-three libraries. The state chose to disburse \$68 million of the approved \$110 million to the top nine libraries this July. Monterey is number two for the next round of disbursement, and, since the only library grant ahead of Monterey is for less than \$10 million, we are assured of getting the grant money. The recommendation of the reviewing committee was, "This project has successfully met all criteria in the grant review process and is recommended for funding." James Lonergan, executive director of the MBLC wrote, "Congratulations on reaching this important milestone."

Town Supporters

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who, over these years, has contributed in any way to reaching this goal. Whether you filled out a survey, or participated in a forum to let us know what you wanted to see in the library, or were at any of the town votes that successfully allowed us to apply for and accept this grant and which gave the select board the permission to seek a bond to raise the local matching funds, or gave to the Friends of the Monterey Library to support this project financially, you have demonstrated that you are behind this project and looking towards an improved facility that will serve the town for years to come. Local support was instrumental in obtaining this grant, and the townspeople of Monterey came through. The Friends of the Library contributed over \$20,000 as local matching funds to the planning and design grant so the library was able to prove to the state, without expense to the taxpayers, that it would be possible to meet the requirements of an updated

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A young reader at the book sale.

library that would meet current codes and provide incredible service to the town.

Our project manager, Dan Pallotta, guided us through that grant. Chris Tryon of Berkshire Geo-tech helped with the land survey, and Monterey's Director of Operations, Shawn Tryon, and his crew, helped with soil tests and test pits to determine the suitability for construction. With the help of architect Tim Eagles and the crew from EDM, which included Foresight Land Services of Pittsfield, we have a vision of how a modern library can enhance the town while maintaining the character of the village center that the town made clear was essential to the project. We have convinced the state that we have the need, the plan, and the local funding to complete this project and they have given us the thumbs up!

Next Steps

So where are we now? On the advice of the town's bond counsel, we are required

to complete the bonding process upon the actual award of the state grant. We do not have an exact timetable for the actual award of the grant.

So what is the next step? The trustees have felt all along that we should be able to raise some private money to lessen the burden on the taxpayers. The trustees set a goal of \$200,000. The state money does have some restrictions and cannot be spent on landscaping or furnishings. Those items won't total more than the local funds we have pledged to provide, so we are assured that this will work out. So far the Friends of the Library has raised \$50,000 to support the construction project, on top of what they contributed to planning and design.

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Please join us at **240 Hatchery Road** to support the programs and scholarships that the foundation provides.

The trustees voted at their July 17 meeting to move forward by requesting that the Friends raise at least \$26,000 more as soon as possible. That amount will immediately be put to use by the architect to prepare plans required by the building inspector for approving a permit. This would also be enough to begin the site permitting process, which might be more difficult to navigate because of the proximity of the Konkapot River. We hope that by raising this money immediately we can continue the momentum we have built.

The planning and permitting process could take place over the winter. By getting a jump on the initial planning costs, we would be able to avoid cost increases on that part of the project. Then, if we are ready to start construction when our grant money is disbursed, we will avoid construction cost increases that happen almost as soon as the ink is dry on the estimate. With the privately-raised money funding the start of the process, our construction timeline will keep moving along, and the state and local money will be available when the groundbreaking demands the bulk of the funding.

What can you do?

Please contribute to the Friends of the Monterey Library. Be on the lookout for requests from the Friends, which is a 501c3 nonprofit, so gifts are tax deductible. We are so grateful for all the support you have given so far, and hope you can find it possible to allow us to continue to move forward. This project has only

moved forward with your support, and we hope that you can continue to help make this project progress towards completion. If you would like to help fundraise please contact the Friends, montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com. With your help we can make this happen!

August Programs

We still have two programs for the children this summer. On Saturday, August 5, at 10:30 a.m., Tom Seiling will bring his rowdy sing-along songs and have even the adults moving to his “Tromp through the Swamp.” On Saturday, August 12, at 10:30 a.m., Jeff Boyer, also known as the Bubble Man, will bring his “Bubble Trouble” to the library and amaze everyone with the art of doing the amazing with a simple solution! Don’t forget to bring in the reading logs for a gift certificate to the Harvest Barn (thank you Nathan!), and some other certificates courtesy of the Western Mass Library Advocates. If there are families who would like to attend the Big E during September and October, please let us know and we will enter you into the drawing for some complimentary tickets.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

MontereyMassLibrary.org

Library Renovation Funding

Costs and Sources

\$ 3,056,840	Estimated cost
<u>\$ -1,855,675</u>	State grant (applied for)
\$ 1,201,165	Community portion
<u>\$ - 200,000</u>	Private donations (goal)
\$ 1,001,165	Town funding needed (bond)

Short-Term Funding Needed

\$ 60,000	Architect—design
\$ + 12,000	Site permitting expenses
<u>\$ + 4,000</u>	Contingency fund
\$ 76,000	Short-term needs
<u>\$ - 50,000</u>	Friends of Library—available
\$ 26,000	Funds needed now

Note: Privately raised funds used for budgeted amounts will directly reduce costs to taxpayers.

Petrichor Ensemble

Free Concert, Friday, August 11

The Monterey Cultural Council is proud to sponsor the Petrichor Ensemble. The ensemble will be performing all-original music. The concert is on August 11, at 7 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse.

The husband-and-husband duo, Charles and Julien Zotique, make up Petrichor Ensemble, and describe their sound as, “The brainchild of Sufjan Stevens, Andrew Bird, and Erik Satie.”

For the August 11 concert, the Julliard-trained duo have created an hour-long set that explores the sound world of midi (musical instrument digital interface) samples and loops, combined with their classical training in violin, piano, and voice.

Petrichor is the word used to describe the smell of the forest just after it rains. Julien and Charles hope their music evokes something just as vivid and magical for the audience.

Please hold the date and come and enjoy what appears to be an enchanted evening.

The concert is free and light snacks will be served.

—Monterey Cultural Council



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In My View

Being a select board member can be difficult sometimes. The position is to make decisions that will benefit the people of Monterey and improve the town. Some decisions you make, will make some folks happy and others unhappy. Some decisions will increase the tax burden, so that we may make improvements for the greater good.

Last spring, I joined the select board in voting to approve a program that should make everyone happy and will cost the town's taxpayers nothing. The select board decided that the focus of our CDBG application would be to provide assistance to Monterey residents who wish to repair their homes, but don't have the funds to do so.

The funds would in the form of "0% interest loans" that will not have to be paid back as long as the property owner owns the house. These loans will self-amortize (diminish) over a period of time. If the property owner sells after that time, they owe nothing.

Funds can be used for electrical repairs, roof repairs, improved accessibility, septic repairs—basically anything that will address and correct health and safety issues in a dwelling (sorry, no hot tubs).

The maximum amount one can apply for is \$40,000. There are other parameters as well. They are explained in the application, which will be available at town hall and through the town website.

In addition to helping residents repair their homes, this program helps all Montereyans. It keeps folks living in safe and healthy conditions (easing the burden on our first responders), it prevents the housing stock from deteriorating (maintains property values for all), and it provides jobs for local contractors.

A true "win-win" for our community—and a decision that I am proud to be a part of.

—Steven Weisz
Chair, Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.



Monterey Awarded CDBG Grant

On Thursday, July 20, Governor Charlie Baker, Steven Weisz, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Housing and Community Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay, and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash (not shown) awarded thirty-nine Community Development Block Grants, totaling \$30.5 million.

Monterey was awarded \$800,000 for the rehabilitation of eighteen homes. Steven Weisz, select board chair, received the award on behalf of the town.

Massachusetts' Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a federally funded, competitive grant program designed to assist small cities and towns in meeting a broad range of community development needs. The program helps cities and towns respond to specific housing, community, and economic development projects that support low- and moderate-income residents, or to revitalize underserved areas.

Grant funds will be available starting in December 2017, and will provide 0% interest-deferred payment-forgivable loans to income eligible households. An information session will be held in the fall to assist local residents in applying for these funds.



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Monterey Broadband Update

There are a lot of questions and some angst in Monterey regarding broadband access, given the increase in relevant articles in various publications. Much of the focus has been on the state's efforts in a number of other towns without a mention of Monterey. As we have been stating for several months, Monterey is in a different situation than our surrounding neighbors.

The initial focus of the state was fiber-to-the-home, which calls for fiber optic network to be installed all the way to inside homes. This approach was modified last November, for a number of reasons, to allow the participation of traditional cable operators, who employ other strategies involving bringing traditional coaxial cable into the home. This was done as the original process was taking too much time and the state was genuinely looking for a solution to the forty-one western Massachusetts towns that are unserved or underserved. The state continues to run two programs—one for third-party vendors to propose and implement their broadband solutions (such as Charter Communications), and the second program for towns that will design, build, own, and operate their own networks.

Monterey is already in the process of being wired and "lit up" by a private company, Fiber Connect. The state did not qualify Fiber Connect as a recipient for the \$1.1 million grant due to the fact that it is a start-up without relevant financial history. The Monterey Broadband Committee/MLP petitioned the state to re-look at Fiber Connect considering the

fact that they are well underway with their effort to cover close to 70% of the town with private funds. We are seeking the grant monies to build out the remaining 30% of the town and to possibly provide other benefits. The state visited the MLP committee on July 25 to begin the discussion around taking another look at Fiber Connect and the qualification process. We expect to receive a draft of the state requirements in August.

In the meantime, Fiber Connect will continue to wire and connect local residents. According to state officials, our grant money is safe while undergoing this qualification process.

At this point, Fiber Connect still enjoys more than a two-year time advantage over Charter. The leadtime is greatly influenced by a process called "make ready," where the broadband provider must apply to Verizon and National Grid for access to the poles. Each pole must be individually inspected to determine suitability to add additional wiring and to determine if existing lines must be moved to make room. This process takes minimally a few months to six months or more. Traditional cable companies also require negotiation of a franchise agreement between the town and the provider. This also must be negotiated and executed prior to work beginning.

In summary, in terms of the process, we are still inching towards a conclusion. We learned recently that Fiber Connect already has over forty subscribers already on-line.

—Cliff Weiss

Broadband Committee

Conservation Commission Needs New Members

The conservation commission performs a valuable and vital function for the town of Monterey by protecting the wetland areas of our town.

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services, including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

The Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act, passed in 1957, authorized each town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation. Permitting for any development project begins with the conservation commission.

The conservation commission is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy on the commission for a three-year term. The commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

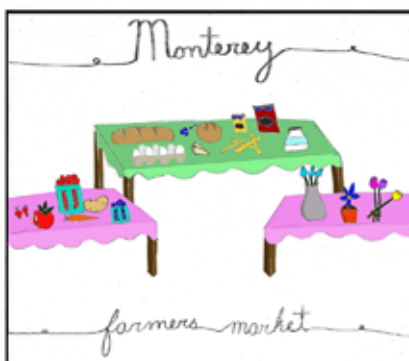
Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to admin@montereyma.gov or by regular mail to Monterey Conservation Commission, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.



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local meats, chicken and duck eggs, local cheese, vegetables, baked goods, handmade soaps, syrup, jams and more!

Lake Garfield Working Group August Report

At its recent meeting, held on July 10, the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) discussions focused on the proposed work, due to start in coming weeks, to contain the spread of the largest dense milfoil patch present in the most recent vegetation survey conducted July 2016.

Preparing for milfoil containment

Unofficial observations conducted by members of the group suggested that there has been a significant decrease in Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) populations throughout the lake compared with areas surveyed at this time last year. The implications of this on our proposed control work, if confirmed by an official aquatic vegetation survey, were discussed at length, though it was ultimately acknowledged that any proposed work area would need to be examined and identified by a professional lake scientist prior to commencement regardless. Therefore, the remainder of the meeting focused primarily on scheduling and contracting a lake scientist for this year's aquatic vegetation survey.

2017 Aquatic Vegetation Survey

At the recommendation of the LGWG, the select board approved and signed a contract with Water Resource Services (WRS) on July 12 to conduct this year's aquatic vegetation survey. The survey was performed on July 20 by Dr. Ken Wagner and marks the third consecutive year that such an effort has been taken. In prior

years, the survey was funded by the Friends of Lake Garfield, though this year's survey is funded through Town of Monterey funds designated to fund lake scientist-conducted research. A preliminary report has been provided to the LGWG by Dr. Wagner, and indeed confirms that, in contrast to the estimated twenty-seven acres of dense milfoil patches observed in 2016, "The total area of dense EWM is probably now less than two acres, probably closer to one acre."

So what happened to the milfoil?

Dr. Wagner's report notes that the winter drawdown continues to limit EWM growth in depths less than six feet, though EWM habitat does threaten "plant community structure" in depths between eight and fifteen feet. Indeed, EWM's expansion at these depths, as observed since 2013, has prompted actions at the town level (such as Article 14 on this year's annual town meeting warrant), to explore control options other than drawdown.

It is of note that Dr. Wagner observed no indication that herbicide application was a factor in the decrease in EWM populations.

Though unproven, and indeed difficult to prove due to lack of clarifying data, the most logical explanation of this partial crash of the EWM population is that "insect herbivore populations have expanded in response to available EWM," to the point where EWM was consequently reduced in abundance.

Through examining the stems of milfoil plants, Dr. Wagner observed a variety of invertebrate species, the most notable in

our case being the milfoil weevil, as it is the only species observed that is known to damage EWM. However, no clear indication of insect herbivore damage to EWM plants was observed. What this suggests is that a boom in insect herbivore populations, whose peak would have occurred late last summer (2016), may have damaged EWM populations and that the decrease in EWM populations observed this year may be the "aftermath" of that previously effected damage. In other words, a predator-prey ecological relationship may exist between one or more insect herbivores and EWM, and that caused a "boom" in the insect populations and a resulting "bust" in the EWM population. It is important to note that in this sort of relationship, neither species is ever entirely eliminated by the other, but rather a cycle is created where each species experiences a boom or bust in turn.

Where to go from here?

As this most recent revelation is cause to question the cost-effectiveness of any proposed harvesting or containment measures at this time, the LGWG intends to discuss and examine these and any other management options yet available and recommended by WRS at our next meeting. Dr. Wagner has also stated that further investigation into insect herbivore populations in Lake Garfield is warranted, as the densities cited to cause EWM crash have yet to be officially observed in Lake Garfield.

Though the findings of this recent survey is indeed cause for some relief with regards to the previously projected expansions of EWM suggested by recent years, the LGWG remains fully committed to further examining the presence of and potential need for management of the EWM populations present in the lake.

The next LGWG meeting will be held on August 14, at 7 p.m., at the town hall. In addition to further discussion of the findings described above, the LGWG will be examining preliminary results from our Lake Garfield Survey which closed on July 31 and which will help shape future public engagement activities this fall.

—Eric Danforth

Lake Garfield Working Group

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What the heck is FLG? Why should I give a hoot?

1. FLG is—

A: Wait, wait don't tell me!

B: It's on the tip of my tongue!

C: Funky Lulu's Group, SNL regulars who rock 'til they drop.

D: The Friends of Lake Garfield, a tireless group of community-minded folks, deeply dedicated to the preservation and protection of our glorious Lake Garfield for all in Monterey to enjoy, whose next open meeting will be on the beach, Saturday, August 5, at 9:30 a.m., unless it rains, in which case, head for the firehouse. In either place you'll learn about who's winning the war against milfoil. (Spoiler alert: the milfoil news will knock your socks off.)

2. What is a Mini-LakeFest?

A: It's no big deal.

B: It's LakeFest featuring MiniMouse and other Disney characters.

C: It's LakeFest, but it's only 3 minutes—from 10:00 a.m. to 10:03 a.m., on August 19.

D: Well, it is on August 19, and it's just that—a mini-LakeFest—consisting of a fishing derby at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery pond (down River Road just a bit into New Marlborough), from 9 to 10:30 a.m., complete with prizes.

Kids can be up to thirteen years old. After the fishing derby, come enjoy FREE hotdogs at the beach from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

3. FLG raises money to preserve and protect Lake Garfield by—

A: Drying milfoil in the sun, chopping it up, and putting it in little baggies labelled "Cannabis."

B: Begging on street corners.

C: The introduction of the latest cryptocurrency—WeedCoin.

Q: The generosity of the Monterey community whose membership dues and donations fuel our dedication.

A big "thank you" to all those who have already stepped up. And if you haven't gotten around to it yet, by all means join the Friends of Lake Garfield. Family membership is only \$35 (less than 10 cents a day). Or, you can become a Special Friend for \$100, a Super Special Friend for \$200, or a Joyfully Generous Friend for any amount of your choice. Please include, along with your check, your name, address, email address, and phone number. Make checks payable to Friends of Lake Garfield and mail to PO Box 355, Monterey, MA 01245. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

(ANSWERS: 1-D, 2-D, 3-Q)

You can blame this quiz on Hy Rosen, a longtime Friend of Lake Garfield.

Council on Aging

The trip to Chesterwood has been postponed until Wednesday, September 6. It will include a box lunch, a tour of Daniel Chester French's studio, and an opportunity to view the grounds. Besides designing the Lincoln Memorial, he was a noted gardener. For information call Ruth Champigny at 528-2856, or Kay Purcell at 528-9151.

Waconah Park Baseball

Wow, if you weren't at the game on Sunday, July 16, it was a hit—good weather, great company, and an edge-of-your-seat finale. Pittsfield Suns 12, Worcester Bravehearts 11. The scoring run happened at the bottom of the 9th inning.

National Park Lifetime Pass

The cost for lifetime passes to the entire national park system for folks sixty-two years old and older will increase on August 28, 2017 from \$10 to \$80. If you haven't bought one, this is a great opportunity. It will pay for itself with your very first visit to a national park. You can order it online, for an additional \$10 processing fee, or by mail, which must be postmarked by August 27. For information, go to nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

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Learning Curve

Schools are among our most important community ventures. We imagine, plan, design, build, staff, administer, populate, furnish, transport, monitor, examine, and fund, then expect and hope for outstanding results and a bright future for our young students. The Berkshires, and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), of which we are a member town, are facing challenges, including declining enrollment, tight budgets, and uncertainty. In an effort to learn more about Monterey families' experiences and thoughts on educational opportunities, a dedicated group of parents of school-aged children met at our town hall on Saturday, July 22, for an informal discussion.

The families in attendance have children ranging from two to twenty-eight years of age, and all have attended and/or are currently enrolled in SBRSD. Some topics of our lively discussion included:

- Placements at New Marlborough Central, Undermountain and Mount Everett Regional schools;
- Past experiences at the Monterey School, and questions about the future of this school;
- Busing and transportation;
- Class sizes;
- Provisions for students' special needs;
- Advantages of small local schools;
- Need for child care options.

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Although this meeting was not set with expectations of making policy or decisions, a few very practical suggestions came up, including:

- School committee meetings could rotate among member towns, including Monterey;
- Increasing awareness of Monterey as a full-fledged member of the SBRSD;
- Meeting with the new superintendent, Ms. Beth Regulbuto;
- Reaching out to realtors helping families who may wish to relocate to southern Berkshires, promoting the advantages of our schools.

The focus of this ongoing conversation is Monterey's role in providing educational opportunities, both present and future, for our children and families. If you'd like to be included in our discussions, please let me know so I can add you to our email list.

—Carol Edelman

Select Board

carol@montereyma.gov



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Tuesday.....9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2-5 p.m.
Thursday.....4-6 p.m.
Friday.....4-8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
.....7-9 p.m.

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Child Early Intervention Pediatric Development Center

Pediatric Development Center (PDS), central Berkshire County's Massachusetts Department of Public Health-certified Early Intervention Program, serving children and their families from birth to age three, was awarded the contract for south county service provision by MDPH in December of 2014.

We are excited to announce that PDC South, located at 924 S. Main Street in Great Barrington, has evaluated and treated over two hundred children in Southern Berkshire to date.

PDC South has a full component of therapists, including speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists, along with multiple social workers and developmental educators to address any developmental or behavioral concerns that might arise in young children under the age of three.

We treat infants and toddlers who have a diagnosis, children who are at risk for developmental concerns, and children who are considered to be medically fragile.

Sometimes children will need to continue therapeutic services after the age of three, in which case, we assist families in accessing services from their local school districts.

Our program is "family-centered," so we look at daily routines to work in therapies around the family's schedule. There is never a direct cost to families for our services.

To talk to a PDCS staff about your child's development, please call 413-717-4083. We would be pleased to speak with you about your child and concerns, and how PDC can support you.

For more information, please go to our website at pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org.

—Pat Pellegrino

PDC Program Director

Monterey Community Center

Tuesdays are currently the big days at the MCC—in the morning there is chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, for those so inclined, and in late July, the Tuesday afternoon bridge group had four tables playing! In late afternoon (4 to 6) the farmers market is in full swing outside. In the evenings, Vikki True is leading her Eclectichorus—all are welcome.

To see what is on the schedule, check our new website at ccmonterey.org where you will always find, among other things, the current event calendar. In order to schedule your own event or activity, please contact our event coordinator by emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org, or by calling 413-528-3600 and leaving a voicemail.

For our first three months of activities we've seen a very rewarding increase in participants at programs, classes, or events.

May	114 people
June	143 people
July	180 people

Your meetings and activities are welcome as long as they fit in the schedule with other reservations. For Monterey residents, landowners, and groups, there is no cost for booking the space for public or private activities, though donations are always appreciated. There will be a small charge if your event is commercial in nature. We are working on a series of classes and events sponsored by the center itself—you will see publicity for them as they are arranged.

Thanks as always for your support.

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In Remembrance Alf Bjorn Pedersen, 97

Alf Pedersen, a long-time resident of Monterey, died peacefully July 14, 2017, at Grandview Hospital, Birmingham, AL. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Lena Kinne Pedersen, in 2012.

Born in Arendal, Norway, on March 27, 1920, Alf immigrated to the United States in 1925. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and was honorably discharged in 1945. As a B-24 crew engineer and top turret gunner, he was awarded the American Theater Ribbon and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Alf was the loving father of Paul B. Pedersen and his wife Laurie of St. Petersburg, FL; John K. Pedersen and his wife Alisha, of Atlanta, GA; Eric J. Pedersen and his wife Debra, now of Vilcabamba, Ecuador; Ellen Pedersen Allison, of Birmingham, AL; Ann Pedersen Gazdik and her husband John, of Schenectady, NY; Hannah Pedersen Moran and her husband Jeffrey, of Great Barrington, MA; and many beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Jan Pedersen, and his wife, June Pedersen, of Stockbridge, MA, and his sister, Gloria Nicolai, and her husband, Peter Nicolai, of Egremont, MA.

He was predeceased by his brother Per Bjorn in 2014, sister-in-law Grace Johnson Pedersen in 1991, and son-in-law Scott Allison in 2016.

Alf was an accomplished master journeyman and steamfitter, and retired from General Electric Corporation in Pittsfield in 1985. He continued to work in all phases of construction with his son's company, Eric Pedersen Construction, in Monterey, for many years. He was an attendee of several Berkshire evangelical churches.

Services were held on July 22, with interment afterwards at Corashire Cemetery in Monterey.

Donations in memory of Alf may be made to Home Base (<https://giving.mass-general.org/home-base/donate/>) which is a program that helps Post- 9/11 Service Members, Veterans and their Families heal from the Invisible Wounds of War. Donations may be sent c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

You may send remembrances to his family through finnertyandstevens.com.

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Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
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Knox Gallery August News

Jim Singelis and Linda Skipper's *Duet in Black and White* opens at Knox Gallery on August 5, with a reception on Saturday, August 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please join us for the evening.

Jim Singelis, who works in both oil paint and charcoal, began his professional career designing scenery for theatre, film, and print photography. He became so fascinated with personal computers when they were introduced in the early '80s that, after nearly twenty years as a set designer, he studied programming. This change allowed him to leave New York City and work out of the couple's home in New Marlborough. In 2009 he began drawing and painting again.

Singelis states that, "Each painting is a layered record of thoughts and emotions, a visual history of something interior."

Linda Skipper's first love was clay, but other art paths took over and led her into a career as the head scenic artist on television's "Law & Order" for the twenty years of its production. For many years she squeezed in a part-time pottery life, "but it could never be long or intense enough, until now," she says.

Skipper's influences include woven and hand-worked basketry, fabric, and quilting, especially the traditional Japanese work clothes mended many times over with sashiko stitching patterns. She strives for simple, graceful, quiet, and luminous qualities in her porcelain vessels.

Please visit and enjoy the beautiful contrast of Singelis' bold, dark pieces with Skipper's delicate porcelain. *Duet in Black and White* will be on view through September 9, 2017. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates



Linda Skipper, left, and Jim Singelis, right.

Parks Commission

Lifeguard Hours

There will be a lifeguard daily at the town beach from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Labor Day. There will not be a lifeguard during inclement weather.

Swim Lessons

Swim lessons will be provided from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., on August 7 through 11.

Boats and Kayaks

Additional kayak racks have been installed. Boats and kayak racks left in other areas will be reported to the harbor master.

Movie night

On Saturday, August 5, at 8:30 p.m., we will show the family-friendly, animated movie, *Sing*, at Greene Park, accompanied with popcorn and candy. "In a city of humanoid animals, a hustling theater impresario's attempt to save his theater with a singing competition that becomes grander than he anticipates, even as its finalists' find that their lives will never be the same."

This is a free, annual event, sponsored by the Parks Commission.



New Marlborough Gallery

Out of Many, One: e pluribus unum is the title of the second show this season at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery. This invitational exhibition, which opened on July 28, features pieces by nineteen artists who work in a variety of media; among the artists from Monterey are Pam Johnson, Sharon Magruder, and Julie Shapiro.

The theme of this show, as described by the organizers, "came to us amidst the political and social turmoil being created by the new administration. As artists, we respond to the forces around us. Those forces led us to focus on our nation's founding principles. We are aware that this is a nation of endless differences, but these separate parts contribute to a unique and vibrant whole. In this confusing time, Americans are searching for ways to convert that which separates us into that which unites us. As artists, can we focus on depicting how "many can be made one," how our society can express itself in disparate ways, and yet function as a single entity?"

The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery is located on Rt. 57. This exhibition will be up through August 27 and is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Julie Shapiro

Harvest Barn Bakery at Gould Farm



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Transfer Station News

Well, it's finally here and working well. Of course I'm talking about your new transfer station and swap shop. After a shaky start, things are working smoothly, for the most part. I would like to remind people of a few things.

We now have a special container for mattresses. It's a free service paid for by a special grant that the town was able to procure.

There seems to be a bit of confusion as to the use of our construction dumpster. There is a charge for the use, except for small amounts of debris, so please see one of the attendants before depositing items.

Also under the do's or don'ts—please use the parking area in front of the station and do not park in front of the cans and bottles area. This will only tie up traffic behind you.

I had a small operation in the beginning of July which kept me out of action for a few weeks, so I would like to thank the people who helped keep your transfer station running smoothly. First, it was nice to see Ben back on his feet. After almost six months away, he is now gaining strength and sends his heartfelt thanks to all who, through their cards and letters, have supported him. I also have big thank-yous to the people who volunteer their time. My sister, Sande, and Beth's daughter Ray-Anne, who kept the

swap shop in order. My nephew,, David and Beth's son, Randon, helped Beth take care of serving our customers. Thanks to them your transfer station and swap shop never skipped a beat.

Thanks to everyone from Dave, Beth, and Ben. Have a safe and wonderful rest of the summer.

—Dave Gilmore



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MOVIE NIGHT!
"Charlotte's Web"

SUN, AUG 27 11:00 AM FREE

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**SOIL and SHUL in the
BERKSHIRES:**

**The Untold Story of Sandisfield's
Jewish Farm Colony**

Presented by Lorraine German



These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Baldylocks and the Bear The Old Firehouse Caper

Baldylocks lives in the little village of Monterey, tucked in the Berkshire Hills. Baldy loves his birds, which provide him with hours of pleasure. Every morning when he's home, the bird feeders are hung, and in the evening the feeders are placed just inside the side door, in deference to our local bears.

Baldylocks lives in the old firehouse. One night, while sleeping soundly tucked in his bed, he was rudely awakened by a very, very loud noise directly above his head, on the floor above. Baldy jumped up thinking someone has entered his house uninvited, but almost immediately realized that, with all the noise, this is not a mere mortal, but something of grander proportions. Then it hit him—a bear—but how? As Baldy started climbing the stairs, screaming at the intruder in hopes of scaring him away, he looked down and realized, "I'm naked," and very, very vulnerable.

At that moment, while continuing to scream threatening things like, "Heh bear—you know I was a collegiate wrestler," the noise suddenly subsided. Baldy slowly reached the top of the stairs, located a light switch, and scanned the room's shadows to make sure the intruder had actually left the premises.



Well, Bare Baldylocks realized it was a bear, for sure, as evidenced by the multiple muddy prints on the window, floor, and on the top of Baldy's favorite old leather chair. It was then that Baldy realized he had inadvertently left the side window open, and the bird feeders and bird seed were scattered all over the floor. But alas, not a feeder was damaged or missing. The caper was unsuccessful, and Bare Baldy had thwarted the bear!



Mary Kate Jordan

From the Meetinghouse Dog Days? Whaddya Mean, Dog Days?

Tally does seem offended that this month, which contains most of the Big Cat zodiac sign (Leo the Lion), also hosts the "dog days" of August. Curious about the world, deeply aware of details, she's sometimes quite vocal about her preferences.

The old-fashioned term "dog days" is a pre-air-conditioning reference to the heat and humidity that can conspire at the end of August to leave us all panting like puppies. For wealthier folks in the pre-Civil War southern states, the traditional fix for dog days was a fluttering hand fan, and a mint julep on the veranda.

Rumor has it that these remedies work in New England, too. Happily, they aren't the most effective ones we now have available. Most folks in the southern states, and most of us in south Berkshire County, now have access to air conditioning, if we want it. With no more need to scream at the intense sunshine, or wring out our clothes in the humidity, the dog days create much less stress now than they used to cause.

I don't know anything about dogs Tally may have encountered in her time

I hope you enjoyed the tale, and feel free to stop by anytime and hang out with Baldylocks to watch the birds. And—not to worry—Baldy will be clothed.

—Paul DePreter

Note: The author claims that he sought to realistically portray the caper—that's Baldylocks in the background—but something is not quite right with his head.

as a feral kitten near Poughkeepsie, or from a Manhattan apartment window—long story—but both of her Monterey homes are dog-free. As they should be, she comments.

Yes, she's a scrappy one. Very little of our local wildlife scares Tally. Squirrels? She and they face off for staring contests. Most of the time, she wins. Moths, swarming at the deck light after dark? They're perfect catalysts for high-jump training. The turkeys who stroll through the yard hoping for snacks? Oh, yawn. They're about as interesting as the cars going by on Stevens Lake Road.

Of course, she encounters these creatures behind a pane of glass on the lower floors, or, in summer, the screen side of her third floor windowsill perch. And she's much more interested in potential playmates than adversaries. Beneath the aggressive mask in this photo is a cuddler, not a fighter.

The only animal that's ever visibly terrified Tally was the most recent bear strolling across the deck. Come to think of it, that was way back last summer. You don't think this sweet, endearing kitty face might actually scare away bears, do you?

— Mary Kate Jordan



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Fire Company Calls 2016-2017 Responses

The Monterey Fire Company's emergency responses for fiscal year 2016-2017 fell above the yearly average of the past five years.

This past year the fire company responded to 115 emergencies, which was about the same as the previous year.

The breakdown is as follows (last year's numbers in parenthesis):

- 44 (58) emergency medical service calls;
- 38 (28) alarm calls, which includes smoke and carbon monoxide alarms;
- 4 (13) fires, which include brush fires, structure fires, and trees on wires;

- 10 (5) vehicle accidents;
- 14 (5) mutual aid station stand-bys;
- 5 (4) other (ice rescue, gas leak, etc.);
- 0 (2) searches.

Thanks to the 695+ folks who bought tickets for this year's steak roast, whether you showed up to eat food and visit with friends, or just helped to support the fire company by buying tickets.

The fire company manages the fire house, all the equipment, and all the training, with funds raised through donations and the steak roast. Your support of the company underwrites this, and is important as we move ahead with our renovation projects.

—Monterey Fire Company

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Berkshire Fish Hatchery Seeking Board Members

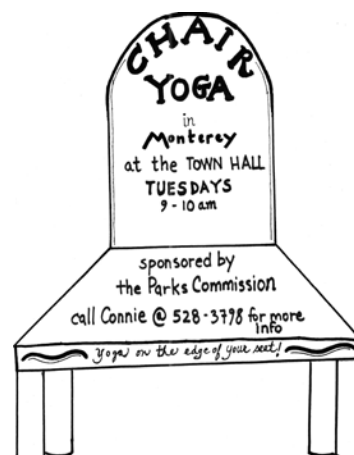
The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery Foundation's board of directors is interested in receiving applications from anyone who would like to be considered as a member of the board. Meetings are an hour long, at noon, on the first Friday of each month—held over lunch. Present officers are David Zeigler, President; Linda Thorpe, Treasurer.

The hatchery has recently been upgraded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to regional status. We now have two full-time biologists, and there are plans to renovate the hatch house, office, and fish pool covers.

Present programs include raising brook trout for Berkshire County fish and game clubs, and a new lamprey eel-resistant lake trout for New England lakes. Each summer city kids and boy scouts are invited to come out for fly fishing lessons, trail walking, fishing derbies, and education, all youth-oriented.

Come be on the board behind this worthy asset for all ages in our area.

—George Emmons
 Berkshire Hatchery Director

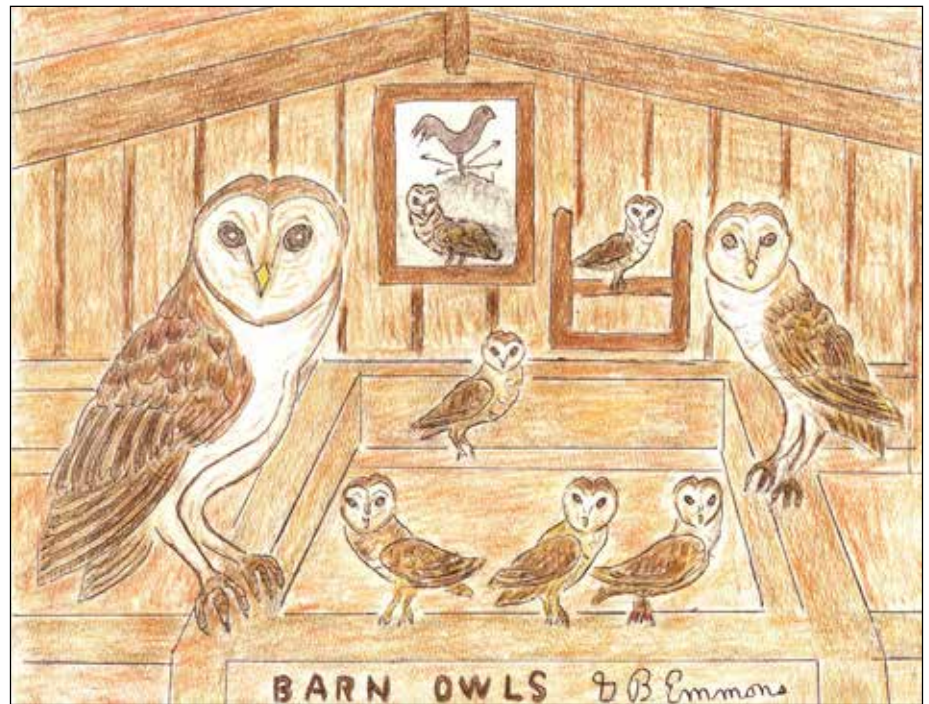


The Beneficial Barn Owl

The barn owl is often considered a beneficial friend of the farmer. They are voracious predators around the barnyard, keeping down the rodent population of mice, rats, moles, and voles. They are also the most widely distributed species of owl in North America, which is quite surprising as many bird watchers here say they have never seen one even though Monterey has a rich heritage of agricultural barns. The barn owl is quite unique, to be sure, with a ghostly pale color and no ear tufts, imparting a mysterious expression of surprise on a heart-shaped monkey-looking face. They often raise two families a year, but do not build a nest for that purpose. Instead, they lay four or five eggs in a convenient but secret, hidden hollow cavity. My drawing of them, from memory, at Lowland Farm, shows them in a square of wooden ceiling support structure over the loft of the hay barn.

After hatching, the young are almost entirely white, with their characteristic wide-eyed expression seemingly of complete surprise, looking back at you. They will molt into a more mature, pale shade of down, except for their signature blank-looking face. If an owl's secret nesting location for fledglings is discovered, the parental behavior is even more mysterious than their appearance. They strangely bob their heads up and down while weaving their bodies back and forth, as if acknowledging the invasion of privacy and preparing for an appropriate defensive reaction. This should be taken seriously as birds of prey are known to threaten visitors too close to nesting sites by flying right at them as a warning.

In springtime the young will cautiously venture out of the nest to observe and imitate their parents to acquire skills of catching their own food. All owls swallow their food whole, but they cannot digest either bone or fur, which they regurgitate in the form of pellets. With the arrival of summer, another clutch will soon be on the way, crowding and dispersing the first fledglings to move out and find occupancy elsewhere. Any barns that hold grain-fed livestock, which draws the mice, will be a rich opportunity for the barn owls. Gould Farm, for instance, has a wealth of barn



locations, including cow, horse, poultry, and pig structures, but their arrival might not be welcome to the comfort of resident swallows, swifts, fly catchers and pigeons. No wonder some will be ready to vacate the premises for the coming fall migration.

Birds have always held symbolic connection to the traditional farming life. Another species associated with farming is the colorful killdeer plover, which sometimes can be seen along Wellman Road by walkers coming by. They pip in protest to anything even in passing proximity to their nesting site, while periodically pausing to bob their heads in protest, much like the barn owl. Another popular farm spirit, often near the edge of waters like the Konkapot River, is the musical whippoorwill, who only sings his song at dawn and dusk, but does so in syllables that echo

with the memories of previous summers, and resound with the notes of his name.

The barnyard rooster at dawn is energized by the rays of a rising sun to flap its wings and ceremoniously crow to sanction a new day. And when the day's labor of the farm is finally done, the barn owl launches out of his daytime haunt to soar across the meadows and hayfields with the planetary rotation that turns sunset into nightfall. In late June, there may be a sinking, peaceful pause in tempo as the sleepy, winking and blinking of the firefly dances to the pulse of the locust. But the shrill rasping call of the barn owl, sounding like a human scream, brings down a curtain call to daytime, and a "listen up" for rodents, as the owl's hunt on silent wings is the spirit of the night.

— George Emmons

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Golden glowing giants
 rolling in the sun
Approach from ocean depths
 I cannot imagine.
Momentarily, each rises straight
 in the wind,
White hair streaming behind,
Then thunders against the sand—
A final war cry.

I am standing—
 watching
 shaking,
Listening to their call,
Longing for the dance.
But the beach holds me
At water's edge.

And the waves keep marching,
Their thunder song calling
As water flows around my feet
 my ankles
 my knees
 my chest
...the chanting, singing..

I am swallowed,
Sucked from my sure footing,
Thrown and tumbled,
Lovingly beaten and broken.
My bones are crushed,
My face rasped clean,
My skin dissolving in wave action.

I am bleeding,
And my blood is clear,
It flows like water
 It is salty
 It is golden.

And a voice
Echoes from unknown depths:
Come Little Brother,
It is time for us to dance.

Woodburn Farm

I love our land.
I love the grasses that grow on it,
the bushes and the trees.
I love the animals that live on it,
both domestic and wild.
I love the birds that fly over it,
and the fishes that swim in our streams,
I love the sunshine that ripens our crops,
and the dark clouds that bring the rain.
I love planting, harvesting, and calving.
I love our land.
I love the mist on the meadows at dawning,
and the cows waiting at the gate for milking,
I love the cardinal that answers from the pine trees,
when I call the cattle in the morning.
I love the freedom we have, to choose our own occupation,
and the know-how that enables us to grow
extra food for a hungry world.
I love our land.

—Sheldon Fenn

—Bill Meier

February 1992

Bidwell House Museum August News

The Bidwell House Museum is having a great 2017 season. We have some fun events happening in August, but first we need to say thank you.

Township No. 1 Day

Our annual community event, Township No. 1 Day, was held on July 8, and proved to be a wonderful time for all who attended. Despite the grey skies, the rain held off until exactly 4 p.m. and visitors young and old enjoyed wonderful live music, charming re-enactors, great food and drink, historical craft demonstrations, and fun crafts and games. The Bidwell House Museum could not do this event alone and so we need to say thank you to:

- The Adams Brothers (Steve and Pete) and Moonshine Holler (Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof) for entertaining us with great music all afternoon;
- The Tyringham Historical Commission for creating an interesting display;
- Alix vonAuenmueller for her pottery demonstration;



Flying Cloud Director Maria Rundle, at the left, with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) craft project.

- Del Martin of Knox Trail Forge and Steve McAlister for their forging demonstration;
- The Butler's Rangers re-enactors for teaching visitors about life in 18th century New England;
- The Berkshire Hills and Dales Spinning Guild for showing visitors how to spin wool;
- Ruth Green and Tom Ryan for sharing their expertise about the gardens and grounds;
- The Monterey Fire Department for bringing their fire truck;
- Leigh Tryon for bringing a large truck for kids to admire; Roger Tryon for bringing antique farm equipment and taking visitors on hayrides;
- Maria Rundle from Flying Cloud Institute for showcasing a fun STEM craft for kids;
- Laura Pegram from Gould Farm who brought delicious goodies to sell;
- Kenn Basler who once again grilled delicious hot dogs for the crowd;
- SoCo Ice Cream for providing a freezer at no charge so we could sell their tasty ice cream;
- Monterey Library for lending us their tent.

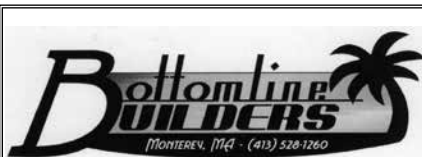
We also need to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard in the weeks leading up to the event and whose help was invaluable on the day of:

Rob and Cindy Hoogs, Rick Wilcox, Kathryn and Marc Roberts, Cory Hines, Nancy Jones, Gil Schrenk, Linnea Grealish, Delight Dodyk, Paul Fuller, Jenn Kole, Frank and Julie Kern, Richard Greene, Lindsey Codwise, Joe Makuc, Justin Makuc, Marya Makuc, Talia Potts, JoAnne Bell, Maggie Barkin, Elaine Lynch, Mary Jo Engels, Nini Gilder, Sarah Hudson, Christine Goldfinger, Rachel Roberts and Catharine Kowalski. Thank you all so much.

Grants from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council, local agencies of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, made the day possible for us all.

Summer Gala Party

On Saturday August 5, from 4 to 7 p.m., the Bidwell House Museum will hold their annual summer gala fundraising party at the beautiful Fiddletop estate, at 11 Wellman Road, in Monterey. Guests at the gala will enjoy music by the O-Tones, a New England Swing band that has been performing in the region for over twenty years. Their upbeat songs will make you want to get out onto the dance floor. Marketplace catering is preparing delectable hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Both a live and silent auction will take place during the celebration, featuring fine art, collectibles,



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Two reenactors, Lisa Reynolds (standing) and Vivian Lea Solek (sitting).

gourmet treats, and Berkshire experiences. Guests will have a marvelous time while enjoying the stunning poolside views.

Archaeology at Bidwell Museum

From August 7 through 11, the Bidwell House Museum will host an archaeological team from UMass Amherst, led by Dr. Kerry Lynch, as they perform fieldwork on the property, part of the ongoing restoration work at the house. If you have ever wondered what happens at a real archaeological dig, visit the house that week so you can see the technicians at work at various sites around the property. On August 9 and 10, local volunteers can help with the project. If you are interested in volunteering, call the museum at 413-528-6888. Space is limited to six volunteers, and there are only a couple of spots left.

Otis Arts Festival September 2

The tenth annual Otis Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, September 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. The festival is indoors at the Farmington River Elementary School, 555 North Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis.

There will be artisans and craftspeople with ceramics, fiber, folk art, leather, water and oil paintings, photography, jewelry, and much more. Music entertainment by Sandy & Sandy. For more information, call 413 269-4674.

History Talks

Our history talk series wraps up on August 19, at The Tyringham Union Church, when Bernard Drew will give a talk titled *Cuffee Negro, Berkshires' First Black Real Estate Agent*. The most unlikely of real estate speculators, Cuffee Negro, also known as Cuffee Van Schaack, bought and sold land in Stockbridge and vicinity in the 18th century. A free black, he learned the trade—including a few dubious tricks—from his father, the Dutch fur trader Elias Van Schaack.

Cuffee spoke Dutch, and was conversant enough in English and Mohican that he negotiated numerous property transactions. He was illiterate; he signed documents with a stick figure, an Indian clan mark. He died in 1763. Bernard Drew is a longtime *Berkshire Eagle* columnist and local historian. He lives in Great Barrington. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. 10 a.m.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Duet in Black & White



Linda Skipper



Jim Singelis

August 4-September 9

Reception: Sat., Aug 12, 6-7:30pm

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Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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Having a Good Day

- A "walk-off" homerun gives your favorite baseball team a dramatic, come-from-behind victory.
- An out-of-touch friend calls to visit you just when you have time.

Organ Pipes on the Wall

The organ pipes on our wall are made of mud, or clay. They come in two different shades of mud and many of them are older ones, with small holes in the sides. We have known for some time that they are made by wasps called mud daubers, and we know these are "solitary wasps," not colonial ones, which means they are peaceful neighbors. They don't live in a big colony like the yellow jackets, or the paper wasps or honey bees, so they don't have to guard the city with an armed air force.

The mud daubers are armed, but only use their weapons for hunting, and only hunt to feed their kids. Adults are flower-lovers and sip nectar. The growing kids need to eat meat, however, and these babies want a certain kind of meat.

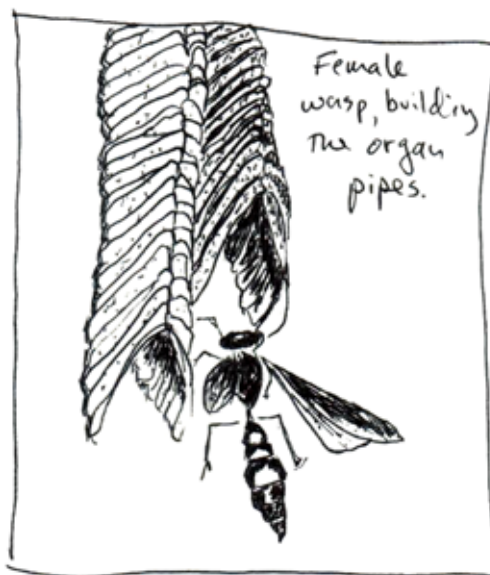
Though there are many sorts of mud daubers, ours are Organ Pipe Mud Daubers, which is one of the many species of spider wasps, none of which spin webs.

I recently watched a small spider in her web on our deck, tackling a big insect. I thought I was about to see that familiar drama in which the spider wraps and wraps and wraps some hapless beetle or fly, immobilizing it, and then makes a meal of its inner self without ever chewing. The spiders have a system of making a hole in the wrapped up bug, dropping in some enzymes and then sucking up digested bug soup, full of nourishment. After the meal, the spider cuts loose the sarcophagus, which is now somewhat empty, and this drops to the floor or the windowsill. The

spider repairs the little hole in the web and awaits her next meal-on-wings.

This was not what happened on our deck. The insect in the web was a blue-black wasp, a little bigger than the spider. I had no doubt the spider would cast many fine loops and prevail over the wasp. As I watched, this was not happening. Instead, the gleaming blue-black wasp curved her abdomen around and under the spider, between the legs of both of them, and stung her repeatedly. Still the spider fought, or at least the whole web was waving wildly thanks to both creatures.

Suddenly, the wasp took off. She was carrying the spider with her! This web would not be repaired, and the spider was on a journey now to become the next generation of Organ Pipe Mud Dauber, or *Trypoxylon politum*.



I didn't see where the wasp went with her prey, but there are many mud organ pipes on our log house wall, above some window trim, eight or ten feet from where the fight took place. Reading up, here's what I learned. The spider was now paralyzed by wasp stings and the wasp was headed to her nest to add this spider to several others cached inside a mud cell.

One six-inch section of pipe has up to six cells in it. When a cell is nearly finished, the wasp goes off to find spiders. She carries these back and puts anywhere from five to twenty of them in one cell. Then she lays an egg, seals up the cell with a cap of mud, and gets started on the next one. She goes to a place where there

is clay, uses her jaws to make a little ball of it, and carries this back to the pipes. Here she mixes the mud with her saliva and molds it using her forehead, smearing many mud balls into long strips, which somehow are turned into organ pipes. Once a cell is loaded with paralyzed spiders, the wasp lays one fertilized egg on the body of the uppermost spider, and caps the cell. She builds another, goes for more spiders, and so on.

In some species of spider wasps, maybe all of them but I'm not sure, the wasp provisions some cells particularly well, and in these she lays her fertilized eggs, which will be very well fed as larvae and are destined to become female wasps. In other cells, the wasp will not put so many spiders, and here she will deposit an unfertilized egg, which will become a male. The better-nourished females become large adults, the males are smaller. Mating occurs just before the egg is laid, so the wasp is in a good position to know which eggs are fertilized and destined to become females.

Some spider wasps, not all of them, put a lot of dead ants into the outermost part of the cell. Such ants are full of formic acid, and maybe other stringent things, and they ward off predators or parasites which might be on the hunt for tasty wasp larvae, or even ready to pilfer the paralyzed spider bodies. One observer has seen titmice (these are birds) pecking holes in mud organ pipes to get at the larvae within. We don't know whether encountering dead ants would discourage titmice.

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The older organ pipes on our south-facing wall have holes in them, but we can't say whether these were made by titmice getting in or by the emerging young wasps, getting out. Clearly our scientists need to stake out the deck. It was pure luck we got to see the gleaming wasp carry off a luckless spider. The next chapter is a mystery so far.

We haven't even seen the wasps building the pipes, but I read that females go for mud and then spiders, while the males stay by the nests, guarding against predators and standing ready to help with the sculpting, and even with receiving and stashing the spiders. I read, too, that the larvae inside the pipes eat spiders for a week and then spin a silk cocoon, still inside there, where they will spend the winter. If the titmice don't get them, they will come out in the spring, big females, smaller males, ready for another year. If you think you see one, here is a description from the Bug-of-the-Week*:

"Patent-leather black with purplish wings and white ankles on the hind legs."

(*by Michael J. Raupp, Ph.D., Entomologist, Univ. of Maryland).

—Bonner McAllester

Write So Monterey Can Read

Every month the *Monterey News* is full of writing from many different people on a variety of topics, and it all makes for interesting reading. Currently, no one gets paid to do this writing—folks do it for the pleasure of sharing observations, experiences, thoughts. (The town reporter was paid, but so far, during the year since our last town reporter, we haven't found anyone willing to take on that task.) Some writing is prose, some is poetry, some is opinion, some is "just the facts." We're fortunate to have a cadre of regular writers who contribute every month, but, as with the prodigal child, it is very exciting to get writing by someone who has rarely, or has never, contributed.

A lot of what goes on in town is unreported, unrecorded, and that's too bad. One great way to contribute is by writing a letter. You might have an opinion, you might want to thank someone, or a town group, for something they've done. Another route to contributing is to decide to report on an event. Perhaps a specific meeting

attended, or an event like the annual movie night, or an activity that you just observed. Perhaps you appreciate someone in town who you think people should know more about—so write a profile of her or him. You might have an interesting story from your life, or an experience that taught you something, which other people could learn from as well.

You don't need to contact me beforehand, just write something and email it, or send it via the regular mail to me. But if you think you'd like to participate, and are unsure about how to approach it, feel free to email or call me and we can talk it over. I have ideas of writing projects—I just need some writers. And don't sweat the fussiness of commas, and sentences, etc. I can help with that, and then our copy editor will clean up the rest!

Don't leave it to others to create this paper every month. Do it yourself.

—Stephen Moore

Editor

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Monterey Police Report Mid-June to Mid-July.

People in Other Places

An officer responded to a request for mutual aid on Main Road. A group of five or six people were fighting, with one person injured. One person was arrested.

A resident of Pixley Road complained, stating that his neighbor was unscrewing his front door light. He leaves it on for security, and had the neighbor on surveillance video unscrewing it. The officer spoke with the neighbor who said the light was annoying at night but promised to stop doing it.

There was a report from Mt. Wilcox Road, up near Beartown State Forest, of two lost hikers. Upon arrival, the officer was approached by DCR staff and was told that they would meet the hikers and lead them out.

While on patrol, officer was approached by a member of the Camp Half Moon staff, who was concerned that an eleven-year-old boy was missing. Shortly after the boy was found, and he did not need any medical attention.

There were also two reports of trespassing, which were amicably resolved.

Vehicles

An officer was dispatched one morning responding to a report of a party stuck on the Stevens Lake Dam. The driver was following his GPS when his vehicle slipped off the narrow bridge. A wrecker was called to tow the vehicle out. (*Note: Search on YouTube for "Bad driving because of GPS."*)

There was a tour bus stuck on Chestnut Hill Road. After the officer arrived on the scene, a wrecker was called and the bus was towed out.

A vehicle was stopped for a missing tail light. The officer found the operator's license to be suspended and the vehicle to be unregistered. The driver was charged and the vehicle towed.

A driver fell asleep on Main Road and went through the guard rails. The fire department also responded, and an ambulance was called.

Patrolling on Main Road an officer came upon a white pickup truck with the front wheel missing. The vehicle had done some damage to the new blacktop. The owner was charged for not having an inspection sticker. Arrangements were made between the owner and the Director of Operations to make repairs to the road. The vehicle was towed to the owner's home.

Alarms

Responses to various alarms were quite popular during this period. False alarms, operator-error alarms, service people and realtors having difficulty with codes, burglar scare, kitchen fan, a lonely dog, a garage door left open and the alarm tripped, and an unnecessary medical alarm. You name it, if there's reason for an alarm system, it was tested somewhere in Monterey this month.

Night Noises

There were three reports of people calling with concern over hearing gun shots or fireworks, but, upon responding, nothing of that nature was heard. One other noise involved a person reporting a loud explosion that shook her house, but there didn't seem to be anything else going on in the area.

Dogs, No Cows, and a Llama

In different parts of town there were unleashed dogs, missing or loose dogs, a complaint about a dog harassing chickens, for a total of seven responses.

Monterey's cows were well behaved for another month.

Oh, and an anonymous report of a loose llama, which the officer was unable to locate.

And Bears, Raccoons, and a Snake

Someone reported a bear cub around her house. She was advised to try putting some ammonia on a cloth and hanging it in the area the bear comes from. There was also a report of an injured or tired bear by Sandisfield Road. An officer arrived and saw a medium-size bear in the woods, and it appeared healthy as it ran off. A bear complaint on Hupi Road stemmed from a bear going through the garbage. It is unlikely that it was the bear complaining. The officer applied the siren and the bear ran off.

Police responded to a sick raccoon call on Pixley Road. The animal appeared sick, possibly rabid, so it was put down and disposed of.

A request for assistance with a large snake, outside of a resident's house, prompted a response. The officer advised them that they are not allowed to remove or harm wildlife in its natural habitat unless

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it is sick or rabid. They were advised to contact a private company for assistance.

Don't call Verizon

There were a few trees down during this period. In one situation, there was a report on Elephant Rock Road for a tree across the road and resting on the Verizon phone cable. Verizon was notified and they said they don't remove trees any more. They referred people to the highway department. As this is a private road, it is up to the association to hire someone to remove it.

Bonfires

A report of an illegal fire on Tyringham Road was checked out. An officer went there and explained about burn season being over, the proper size for a camp fire pit, and what you can burn in it.

Another report was for an "unattended bonfire." On arrival, the officer saw a small, contained campfire with a large number of people sitting around it. The police officer spoke with the reporting parties and advised them that there were people tending the fire and they would put it out when they were done.

Guidelines for outdoor cooking, from MA Department of Environmental Protection). Outdoor cooking is allowed year-round in all communities and is not subject to open burning limits. Unless they are being used primarily for cooking, however, they are technically subject to the MassDEP open burning regulation. If you do use a fire pit for cooking, the fire must be:

- Kept to a reasonable size;
- Located away from combustible materials;
- Contained in a non-flammable enclosure; and
- Tended by someone who is 18 years of age or older.
- Remember to burn only clean, dry firewood. This will minimize the amount of smoke leaving your property and lessen the chance of causing a nuisance for your neighbors. Burning trash, refuse and other similar materials is not allowed.

Call 528-3211 to reach the police department for non-emergencies.

Telling Stories History of the Monterey Library

Does sitting around the table over a cup of coffee and a donut, talking about the Monterey Library, sharing your memories, and listening to others tell stories, sound interesting to you? Then join us Saturday, August 19, at the library from 10 a.m. until noon, or on Monday, August 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Do you remember Mr. Abecrombie? Mrs. Makuc? How old was Mark Makuc when he took the reins of the library? So three librarians in ninety years—that has to be some sort of record. Just another historic fact that makes Monterey a very special place.

Please join us for some lively conversations and help us document the history of our library.

Update on the Monterey History Project

The Monterey History Project received a small grant from the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage organization and was able to hire Joe Makuc this summer to transcribe the many hours of interviews done so far, as well as set up the technical aspects of archiving. Also in the grant was money to purchase a computer hard drive for the library to archive the thirty-eight hours of interviews (so far).

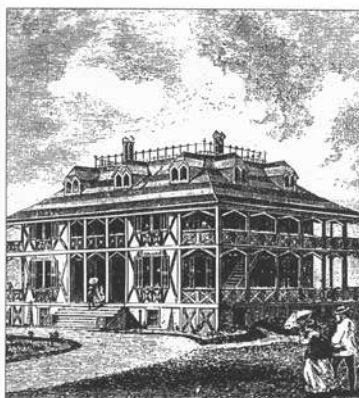
—Wendy Germain



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Wildlife Report, Mid-June to Mid-July: Bears to Butterflies

Here on East Hupi Road, the neighborhood reports are in, regarding certain familiars, which are making regular visits to the driveways, yards, and gardens. At least four households have become friendly with a certain young buck deer. He has surprised some of us with his taste for tomato plants, also potato foliage. In our garden, he likes the tall tops of the Stokes Purple Potatoes, also the shorter Carolas. We prefer the potato tubers, ourselves, so we can afford to share.

Another frequenter is a young black bear, and Wendy Benjamin got a photo (below) of him in mid-July. He was up on his hind legs among the ferns and shrubberies, eating berries, Wendy says.



Wendy Benjamin

Also on this end of Hupi Road, we hear of a bigger bear, visiting Julie Shapiro and Allan Dean, also Mayra and Wendy's place. The local turkey family report varies some, but is currently at two adult females and eight youngsters, getting taller every day. Julie has seen an Indigo Bunting just up the road here, for the first time.

Colleen Johnson enjoyed a butterfly visitor to her garden and sent a photo of a Great Spangled Fritillary, on a purple Echinacea (lower, at right).

There is nothing wilder than mushrooms. This is their time and their year around here. At Benedict Pond, on the Loop Trail in late July, we saw more colors and forms of toadstools than you

can believe—or identify, if you are me. We saw purple ones, for instance, which may be Violet Cortinarius, also called Violet Corts. My book says these are “edible with caution: misidentifications are frequent.” Even our old family friend John Cage, renowned in scientific circles as an expert and published mycologist, made a bad mistake once and very nearly paid the price. I think his experimental music, though controversial and challenging to the mainstream, was safer. Though maybe not. Stephen Moore sent me a photo (below) of an unknown fungi at the end of his driveway



Stephen Moore



Colleen Johnson

The Stucker Report

From Tiegen and Maddox and their dad, Dominic.

“July was rich for animal sightings. Maddox and Tiegen Stucker report having seen swallows snatching up insects at dusk at Gould Farm; a pair of sharp shinned hawks soaring above Mill River, a white owl flying low across Shady Brook Road at night; and herons in wetlands along Curtis Road and in the Konkapot River. They also spotted a green and yellow striped snake at their home on Blue Hill Road and brook trout and dozens of crayfish at Umpachene Falls. Mammals included deer along Corashire Road and a fox and baby skunk (on separate occasions) along Route 23. On a recent kayaking trip on the Sheepscot River in Maine, they were impressed by a close-up bald eagle sighting.”

Thanks, everyone, for your reports and photos. Stay wild, keep watching. 528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com.

—Bonner McAllester

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Shira Sawyer took this photo of the bluebird house in our yard. Unfortunately, these are tree swallow babies, not bluebirds, but they are cute anyway! We have house wrens in one house and tree swallows in the other two houses. She got right up to the house and they poked their little heads right out. — Suzanne Sawyer

Contributions July 2017

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters.

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The annual Monterey July 4th holiday softball game attracted a full roster of players to a beautifully manicured Greene Park ballfield. The nine inning affair under sunny skies produced many web gems and exceptional plays. Casual, pick-up, co-ed adult softball games continue into the fall every Sunday morning, at 10:30 am.

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Summer Scrapbook

Photos with titles of lake fun by Maureen Banner.



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MaryPaul Yates

Ben Kreiter and his kids checking out books at the book sale.



Wendy Jensen (both)



Two years ago, Wendy Jensen, in search of shade in a yard with no trees, decided to build a willow bower. She began by laying out a half-circle of freshly cut saplings that she wove and tied together. She planted and wove cuttings of basket willow around the outside. As the willow has grown, she has pruned and woven the branches together to create a fully-shaded shelter over a park bench. She's hoping that by the time—after several more years—the saplings have dried out and deteriorated, the willow will be woven enough, and perhaps even grafted together, to fully support the structure under the winter loading of snow.



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MaryPaul Yates

Lisa Smyle, chair of the library trustees, shared news of the grant for the renovation.

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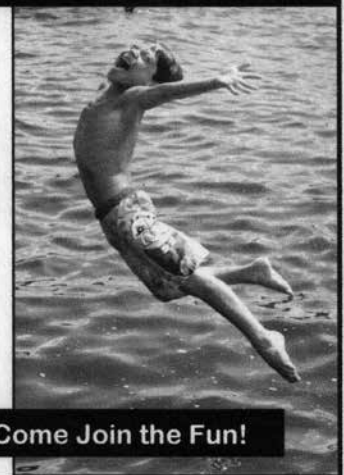
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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, August 7 and 21, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Community center, Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, August 8, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging, back at town hall, Monday, August 14 and 28, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be at town hall on Thursday, August 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, September 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, August 2, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, August 10 and 24, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16, and 23, at 9 a.m., and August 30, at 3 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Annual Second-Homeowners' Meeting: Saturday, August 10, town hall, at 10 a.m.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Recently, several unpleasant, anonymous letters have been brought to our attention. The unnamed writers have complained about the select board, town employee matters, and other disputes they perceive in Monterey. In addition to being largely negative in tone, they include mean-spirited personal attacks on individuals.

Anonymous communication is an act of cowardice. If a person is not forthright in stating who they are when declaring their position or opinion, those statements are not worthy of attention. Nonetheless, these disgruntled voices can be destructive, hurtful, even dangerous. They are counterproductive, helping nothing, and no one. They create problems instead of solving them.

We are puzzled as to why anyone would spread venom about town matters in Monterey in this cowardly way. Select

board meetings, like all town meetings, are open to the public, accessible, and posted well in advance. If you have a concern to discuss and the times don't work for you, one has only to request a meeting to make other arrangements. Select board members are approachable, friendly, responsive, and open-minded. Our email addresses are clearly available. If you have a question or concern, let us know. A signed letter, a call, or an email from a resident merits and receives our serious attention.

We are all neighbors and, while we may disagree on some issues, it is important that we live together in a spirit of honesty and respect.

—Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)

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Calendar

Every Sunday:

Adult Softball. Batting practice 10 a.m., games at 10:30. Greene Park.

Summer croquet, from noon on, at the community center. See page 13.

Every Monday: Kundalini yoga, with Susan Cain, 9 to 10:30 a.m. See page 8.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., community center. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Cards and Games, 12:30 p.m., community center. Sponsored by the council on aging. Farmers Market, 4 to 6 p.m., community center. See page 5.

Tuesdays, beginning July 11: Vikki True's Eclectichorus, 7 p.m., community center.

Every Thursday: Women Talk, 1 p.m., community center.

Until Sunday, August 27: New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery exhibition, including three Monterey artists. See page 11.

Saturday, August 5:

Friends of Lake Garfield open meeting, 9:30 a.m., at town beach or firehouse. Tom Seiling, "Tromp through the Swamp," Monterey library program, 10:30 a.m. See page 3.

Bidwell House Museum summer gala party at Fiddletop, 11 Wellman Road, 4 to 7 p.m. See page 16.

Knox Gallery, *Duet in Black and White*, with Jim Singelis and Linda Skipper, opens. See page 10.

Movie night at Greene Park, showing *Sing*. Bring your blankets by 8:30 p.m. See page 10.

Wednesday and Thursday, August 9 and 10: Archaeology fieldwork at the Bidwell House Museum. Volunteers can assist on August 9 and 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See page 17.

Friday, August 11: Petrichor Ensemble, free concert. 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 3.

Saturday, August 12:

Jeff Boyer, "The Bubble Man," Monterey library, 10:30 a.m. See page 3.

Knox Gallery, Reception for Jim Singelis and Linda Skipper's *Duet in Black and White*, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 10.

Monday, August 14: Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 6.

Saturday, August 19:

Mini-LakeFest, sponsored by the Friends of Lake Garfield. See page 7.

Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30, at Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. Kids thirteen and under. (Beginning part of the Mini-LakeFest.)

Bidwell History Talk: Bernard Drew, *Cuffee Negro, Berkshires' First Black Real Estate Agent*. \$10 for members, non-members \$15. Held at Tyringham Union Church. See page 17.

Monterey History Project, Telling stories about the Monterey Library, 10 a.m. to noon. See page 21.

Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Spare Parts, calling by Jim Fownes. All dances taught. 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

Sunday, August 20:

Lobsterfest at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, 2 to 5 p.m., See page 2. *Monterey News* deadline.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Monday, August 21: Monterey History Project, Telling stories about the Monterey Library, 7 to 9 p.m. See page 21.

Monday, August 28: Adult book group will discuss *Nothing to Envy*, by Barbara Demick, at 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, September 2: Tenth Otis Arts Festival, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Farmington River Elementary School. See page 17.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.



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Contributions from local artists this month:

George Emmons, pp. 13, 14; Tristian Goik, p. 10;

Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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